

DA-81

EASTERN PROVINCE HERALD.

18/4/1984

" Drive by U.D.F. aimed at
August election "

No. 20

Drive by UDF aimed at August election

HERALD REPORTER
COMPLETION of the United Democratic Front's million-signature campaign was planned to coincide with the August elections for the Indian and coloured houses of the new three-chamber Parliament. Mr Patrick "Terror" Lekota, UDF national publicity secretary, said in Port Elizabeth on Saturday.

He was addressing about 70 white people at a meeting to discuss the launching of the signature campaign in the city.

The national campaign to date had collected 100 000 signatures of people who said "no" to apartheid, the new constitution, and the Koornhof laws (the Black Local Authorities Act, Black Community Development Act and the Orderly Movement and Settlement of Black Persons Bill), and "yes" to the creation of a "non-racial democratic South Africa", Mr Lekota said.

"The results will prove to South Africa and the world that one million people do not support the Government's new deal."

He said the campaign was not a petition, and signatures would not be submitted to the Government. The Prime Minister had already received two letters from the UDF, and had acknowledged neither.

Mr Lekota said the Government was preparing itself for a deeper conflict. The forced removals of townships to sites farther from cities was one sign that it was gearing itself for military operations.

"If dissatisfaction continues to deepen, the country is heading for disaster," he said. "We must insist on creating avenues of a non-violent nature and desperately need people with a high level of social conscience."

On an item listed on the agenda as clarification of questions which had arisen about the organisation, Mr Lekota said: "The UDF is not a political organisation but a national front, or alliance, to which 570 organisations (including civic student, community, trade union, sport and cultural groups) currently subscribe.

"These groups are united by a common belief in working, through non-violent methods, toward a non-racial, democratic South Africa, where people are not judged by colour, but on merit alone.

"The UDF is not so presumptuous as to see itself as the future government of South Africa. All we are saying is, give the people of South Africa an equal opportunity to write a new constitution, in a national convention."

The Rev George Irvine of St John's Methodist Church and a patron of the UDF's Eastern Cape branch, chaired the meeting.

A committee to organise Port Elizabeth's signature campaign was formed at the meeting.

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